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*Thomas A. Runk*

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/379,212  
Applicant : Robert J. Duffy; Lon M. Severe; Edward M. Richards; Shawn W. DeKalb; James P. Stewart; Dale Coleman  
  
Filed : 08/23/1999  
Art Unit : 3763  
Examiner : Manuel A. Mendez  
Title : **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR POWER CONNECTION IN A MODULAR PATIENT CARE SYSTEM**  
  
Docket No.: : 66657  
Customer No. : 24201

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

This Preliminary Amendment is being submitted in connection with the above referenced continuation application concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination. Please amend the specification as follows.